



The Blurb



Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club
Public Service Since 1949

Volume 54 Number 1

<http://www.phil-mont.org>

January 2004

PMRC Auctionfest 2004

Wednesday, January 14, 2004
7:00pm - 801 Ridge Pike, Lafayette Hill PA

Individual pieces of ham radio equipment, and ham-related computer gear, offered to the highest bidder...

Same place as last year...

With a brand new name:

Masonic Village at Lafayette Hill



**...and you still don't have to
buy anything...**

Just show up!

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The Blurb is published monthly by, and for, the members of **The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.** whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. *Copying and quoting* is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs. Requests should be sent to the Editor. *Subscriptions* are available to non-members for \$10, addressed to the Treasurer.

Editor: Maggie Leber K3XS

k3xs@arrl.net ☎610-630-9862 <http://voicenet.com/~maggie>

Asst. Editor and Club Archivist: Gwen Patton NG3P

ng3p@arrl.net ☎610-630-9862

Artist: Sam Kunceovich N3QIE

Labels and mailing: WB3KOJ & WB3KOH

Submissions deadline: all copy must be in the hands of the Editors by the 20th of the previous month.

Sunday Morning Net Schedules

- **2 Meter/ 70cm Net**.....at 09:30et on W3QV repeater
- **10-on-10 Net**at 10:00et 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM)
- **75 meter Net**at 10:20et 3.993 MHz LSB

License Examinations

are held on the **first non-holiday Thursday** each month (except July and August) at **Northeast High School,**

Cottman and Algon Streets, Philadelphia PA

Registration begins at 6:00 P.M. Enter through the SPARC wing. Exams begin and doors closed and locked at **6:30 P.M.**

Sharp! Applicants should call Dusty ND3Q at 215-879-0505 (day) or 215 482 0386 (eve) for the latest information.

Contact Phil-mont:

P.O. Box 88

Abington, PA 19001

<http://www.phil-mont.org>

webmistress Maggie K3XS k3xs@arrl.net

For club information: contact any club officer, or the repeaters listed below. Address or club directory changes, and articles that are for the membership e-mail list should be sent to:
wb3koj@comcast.net

The club meets at 7:30 PM on the **second non-holiday Wednesday** of every month except July and August at **The Masonic Village at Lafayette Hill**

801 Ridge Pike

Lafayette Hill, PA

19444-1799

All visitors are welcome!

Club Stations

W3QV Club Repeater – Trustee: W3BBB

Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA

147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz & 444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz

W3AA at Northeast High School –Trustee: WU3I

Cottman and Algon Streets, Philadelphia, PA

W3EM – Field Day and special event station

Trustee: W3VVS

President: W3STW

Al Tribble

2848 Carter Rd.

Trevoise PA 19053

wstw@juno.com

Vice President: W3AOK

Bill Popovic

343 Lemonte St

Philadelphia PA 19128 Philadelphia PA 19114

bill.popovic@verizon.net jmcloskey@msn.com

Secretary: NS3K

Jim Mc Closkey

PO Box 6002

Philadelphia PA 19114

Treasurer: W3RM

Richard A. Moll

roger.mike@verizon.net

Asst. Treasurer: N3MT

Micheal P. Taraborrelli

mtarab01@villanova.edu

Directors: W3BBB(05), N3MT (05), N3XKE (05) WU3I (04), K3CJ(04), K3XS(04)

Committees

Archives: NG3P

Audit: NS3K

Awards: open

Blurb folding:

WB3KOJ & WB3KOH

Directory: WB3KOJ

DX: N3MT

Emerg. Coord.: K3HWE

Field Day: open

Internet: K3XS

Membership: W3LEN

Net Control: KB3IV

Publicity: W3RM

Program: Club VP

Public Service: open

Refreshments: W3AOK

Repeater: W3BBB

Skywarn: WX3PHI

Sunshine: N3GLU

Youth: N3MT

TVI: W3VVS

VE Program: ND3Q

W3AA Trustee: WU3I

Welcome: K3CJ.

Seasons Greetings, I hope the Holidays were all that you expected.

spread the word...

de W3STW AI - PMRC President 2004

Thanks to the participants in the past Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club (PMRC) Election. The future will reveal the wisdom of your choice. Because several of the offices were uncontested I thought the election would be a dull process. NOT SO! The office of President was won by one vote. The interesting part is that one ballot did not indicate

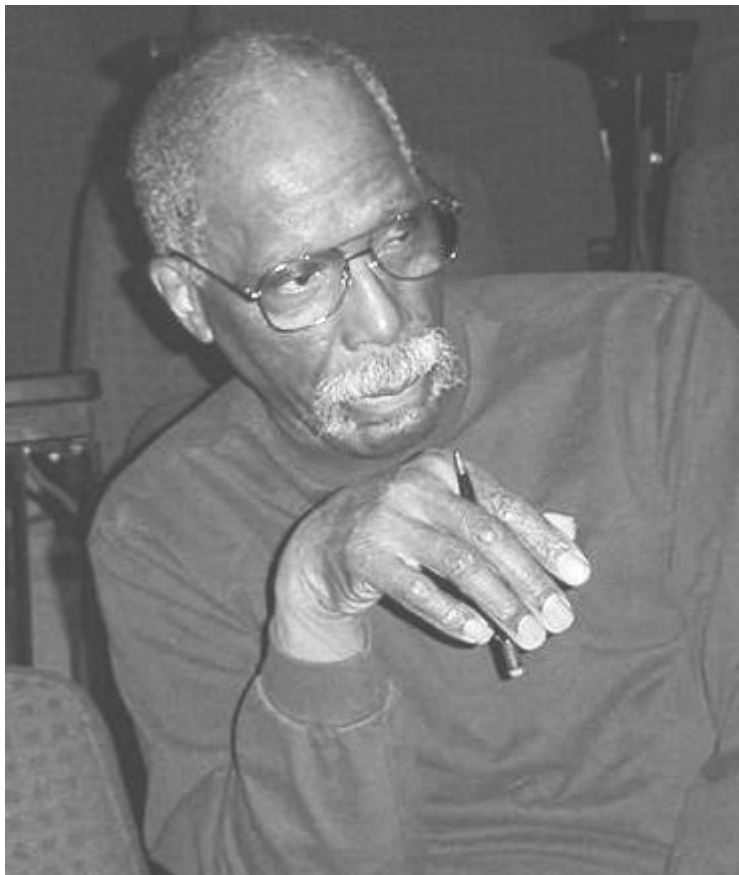
a choice for president. That ballot is the one that has raised an interesting issue, it could have caused a tie. My review of the latest Bylaws reveals that there is no provision for resolving a tie vote.

Many of you when you joined PMRC indicated an interest in, or stated you were in possession of a particular skill that would be beneficial. I indicated an interest in W3TKQ when I joined. I wonder how many stated they possess a particular verifiable organizational leadership skill and want to be PMRC president. Based on the number of candidates seeking the office in the last election, I venture to say not many!

Today I'm interested in satellite communication, W3AA, and W3YC, a little tutoring in Amateur Radio Licensing and now President of PMRC. I hope my efforts continue to be a positive force pushing PMRC to an ever higher plane in the amateur radio community.

What are you going to do to push (not me) the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club to a higher plane in the amateur radio community--starting today?

...73 AI W3STW



AI W3STW
PMRC 2004 President

Emergency Awareness Notes

From our emergency committee chair, K3HWE Larry

Emergency occurrence is never expected nor what character it will take. This is indelibly impressed in my memory from the World Trade center catastrophe I witnessed, along with other Americans, live on television. Numerous emergency situations happen nearly every day in nearly every community.

If someone needs help, immediate sensible response to a call will, obviously, go a long way to help resolve a problem.

The Simplex frequency 146.520 is the official National Calling Frequency. In addition to monitoring your favorite repeater(s), include it in your Operating Scan list of frequencies and/or if you have a spare 2 meter rig, scanner, or receiver in addition to the rig you normally use to get on the repeater make use of it to monitor 146.520 in the background. Since it is Simplex, the more of us that monitor the National Calling frequency the higher probability someone will be

available for assistance should it be needed.

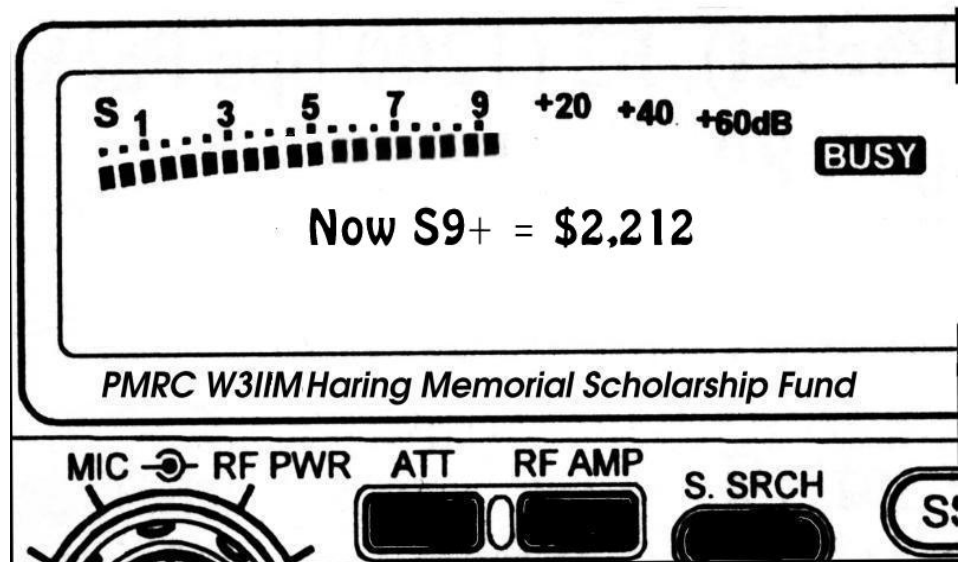
Remember the frequency is intended for brief communication, calling, contacting, then QSYing to another frequency for the rag chew.

Input from Phil-Monters is

appreciated as to the nature of involvement and experience they may have in emergency operations as Phil-Mont members or in other organization(s). Please send your comments to Larry.Stevenson@verizon.net.

Thank you and 73, DE
K3HWE, Larry

Now We're Talking....



As this January Blurb goes to press, the Scholarship Fund S-Meter reads a solid S-9+, with a balance to date of \$2,212. We're still under last year's total, but many members take the opportunity to add a cash scholarship contribution to their dues payment, with the dues invoice accompanying this Blurb. (Both the dues amount and the fund contribution are deductible.)

And our annual Auction-Fest, on January 14th., provides a convenient opportunity to contribute saleable ham equipment to the Scholarship Fund. Just bring--or send--the donated equipment to the auction, and indicate on the auction registration form that the proceeds go to the Scholarship Fund. No "seller's fee" or club "commission" will be deducted; the full value of the equipment contribution will be tax deductible for federal income or estate tax purposes. Contact W3RM for further information.



FEMA tells FCC that BPL will "Severely Impair" Mission-Essential HF Operations

—via ARRL

Expressing "grave concerns" about likely interference from unlicensed Broadband over Power Line (BPL) systems, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) told the FCC that BPL could "severely impair FEMA's mission-essential HF radio operations in areas serviced by BPL technology." FEMA filed [comments](#) December 4 in response to last April's FCC BPL *Notice of Inquiry*, ET Docket 03-104. FEMA expressed primary concern over BPL's potential impact on the FEMA National Radio System (FNARS), which operates on HF and serves as the agency's primary command and control backup medium as part of the Federal Response Plan.

"FEMA has concluded that introduc-

tion of unwanted interference from the implementation of BPL technology into the high frequency radio spectrum will result in significant detriment to the operation of FEMA radio systems such as FNARS," FEMA's comments assert. "FNARS radio operators normally conduct communications with signals that are barely above the ambient noise levels." FEMA further noted that FNARS HF stations typically are in residential areas of the sort that BPL—a form of power line carrier (PLC) technology—might serve.

BPL also could render such "essential communications services" as the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) and the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) useless, FEMA said. FEMA and ARRL last year signed a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) that focuses on how Amateur Radio personnel may coordinate with the agency to support emergency communications functions.

Calling the HF spectrum "an invaluable and irreplaceable public safety resource," FEMA said there's no current alternative to HF in terms of meeting national security and emergency preparedness requirements at the national, state and local levels. The agency recommended beefing up the FCC's Part 15 rules to ensure no increase in interference levels to existing FCC or NTIA-licensed communication systems, "because any noise increase inevitably would diminish the ability to maintain essential communications," FEMA said, and would "directly impair the safety of life and property."

The BPL interference situation is reciprocal, FEMA noted, citing "[Interference to PLC systems from Amateur Radio](#)

[Operation](#)". That paper points out that Amateur Radio transmitters likely would interfere with BPL systems. BPL users likewise would experience service interruptions when its transmitters "overpower the signal levels expected by BPL modems," FEMA predicted.

FCC adoption of proposals to encourage widespread development and deployment of BPL also could result in consumer confusion regarding who would resolve interference issues and how. FEMA said it believes licensed radio services "will be perceived by consumers as responsible for the interference, since most consumers do not understand that their unlicensed Part 15 devices 'must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.'"

"The purported benefits of BPL in terms of expanded services in certain communications sectors do not appear to outweigh the benefit to the overall public of HF radio capability as presently used by government, broadcasting and public safety users," FEMA concluded.

FEMA Chief Information Officer Barry C. West, who filed the comments on the agency's behalf, characterized the issues it raises as being "of great importance to the national public safety." Because FEMA now is part of the Department of Homeland Security, its perspectives on BPL could carry substantial weight at the FCC, which may issue a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* as early as February.

The ARRL announced last week that it plans to complete an independent BPL engineering study within a couple of months. The study will explore how BPL might affect HF and low-VHF amateur operation as well as how Amateur Radio operation could affect BPL systems.

What do the following 49 calls have in common?

KB3KLS, KB3KLT, KB3KLU, KB3KLV, KB3KLW, KB3KLX, KB3KLY, KB3KLZ, KB3KMA, KB3KMB, KB3KMC, KB3KMD, KB3KME, KB3KMF, KB3KMG, KB3KMH, KB3KMI, KB3KMJ, KB3KMK, KB3KML, KB3KMM, KB3KMN, KB3KMO, KB3KMP, KB3KMQ, KB3KMR, KB3KMS, KB3KMT, KB3KMU, KB3KMOV, KB3KMW, KB3KMX, KB3KMY, KB3KMZ, KB3KNA, KB3KNB, KB3KNC, KB3KND, KB3KNE, KB3KNF, KB3KNG, KB3KNH, KB3KNI, KB3KNJ, KB3KNK, KB3KNL, KB3KNM, KB3KNN, and KB3KNO.

These are the 49 newest members of the Trinity High School Radio Club, KB3JAG.

A program of Amateur Radio has been integrated into the Physics curriculum, and generated 49 new hams on Monday, November 17th, 2003. The work is a combination of the Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club VE Team, a program called "Train the Trainer" by K3PD, and a very good teacher named Sean Barnes, N3JQ.

The Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club is a Special Services club in central PA. They have taken a proactive role in getting new hams into the hobby. The club president K3PD felt that it would be more productive to teach a teacher about the hobby, then let the teacher train their students each year.

According to Sean Barnes, N3JQ, the physics program and the principals of the hobby of amateur radio integrate very well. Sean has also started a Radio Club at Trinity High School so lower classmen may get exposure to the hobby before they attend his physics class. Teachers that are interested in Sean's curriculum may contact him at SeanBarnesPolo@aol.com

The Harrisburg Radio Club has only 100 members, but has seen over 100 new licensees produced in the last two years from their VE program and Train the Trainer Program. As part of a perk to the new hams, they get a 1 year free membership in the HRAC if they get the license at a HRAC VE Program. This allows the new hams to be active in ARES, Field Day, and other club events with the HRAC. Most of the VE team members are both ARRL and LAUREL VE certified. The HRAC web page is at

<http://hrac.tripod.com>

-- de Pete deVolpi, K3PD
via ARRL EPA Section News

[...this impressive accomplishment should be an inspiration to the already-productive PMRC training effort at Northeast High School. We hear that they have already licenced three new amateurs way ahead of schedule! Contact Al W3STW or Steve WU3I if you'd like to be involved.]

ARRL EPA SM seeks PA hams who have had antenna problems with city governments

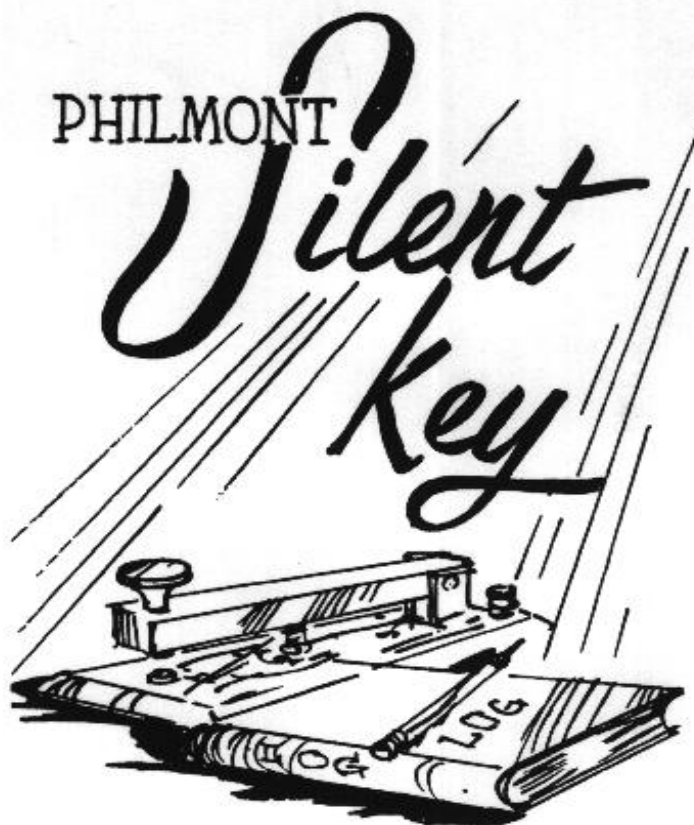
Attention all Pennsylvania amateurs: We are again active in working with the proposed PRB-1 Legislation.

We are seeking individual case histories of anyone having antenna/tower problems due to municipal regulations and/or municipal problems.

Interested persons should contact EPA Section Manager:

Eric D. Olena WB3FPL
284 Blimline Rd
Mohnton, PA
19540-7810
610-775-0526
wb3fpl@arrl.org

-- via ARRL EPA Section News



Bob Schmilewske, K3KUD, recently of Dock Manor, Hatfield, died November 29, 2003. He was 83.

Bob was a long-time member of Phil-Mont, and was editor of the Blurb for many years. He helped to fold the Blurb before that time. When Phil-Mont moved W3QV to its present location, he made an anonymous contribution of over \$1,000 to pay for the needed building at the new site. He was instrumental in getting permission to install our off-site equipment in telephone buildings in center city Philadelphia.

He was always a supporter of Phil-Mont projects. He worked for the Navy for many years as a Professional Engineer. His specialty was submarines and he was tasked to determine that the pressure hulls were spherical and that the metal used in the pressure hulls was of sufficient strength and thickness to withstand the pressures at depth. The integrity of all welds was also his field. He repaired clocks as another hobby. He studied under W3BBB for his novice license and later took code practice to upgrade to General.

He is survived by his son Rich and family. Memorial services were held Saturday December 13 at the Kraft Funeral Home in Willow Grove.

-- de W3BBB

12-03-03 Philmont Board Meeting Board

Attending were Al W3STW, Fred WA3KIO, Maggie K3XS, Ed KB3IV, Dick W3RM, Steve WU3I, and Charlye K3CJ.

Ed KB3IV called the meeting to order at 8:02pm.

Treasurer: Dick W3RM reported that the budget was on target and that at meeting time we were \$300 short on the Haring Scholarship Fund.

Blurb: Maggie K3XS reported everything is OK. One item was left out pertaining to upcoming elections, which will be taken care of by posting in the club list server. Articles for the Blurb are always welcome.

Website: Maggie reported everything is OK except for the map for Brian's Run.

Auctionfest: Dick W3RM reported that publicity has been sent out to QST and clubs.

Ed KB3IV made the suggestion, at the next meeting to pass a microphone around for introductions from members and guests.

Repeater: Jim W3BBB was unable to attend. A discussion was held about a new Broomall input site. We have all the equipment except for an antenna. Steve WU3I made the motion to authorize funds for the antenna. Al W3STW seconded it.



210th Monthly Phil-Mont VE Exam Session Statistics

for December 4, 2003

Three candidates took three elements, and we had three new amateurs. The VE team was chaired by Dusty Rhoads ND3Q, and the other participating VEs were

Jim McCloskey NS3K
Steve Hoch WU3I
Bob Freer W3YLT

Upcoming Exam Sessions:
January 8, February 5, March 4
(See page 2 for details)

Renewals Reminder:

Do not send the FCC any 605 Forms for renewal too early! They will only accept renewals that are dated less than 90 days before expiration.

V.E. Program: Steve WU3I reported that he has received some pre-registered applicants. Also Al reported several students from Northeast High would like to take tests.

Field Day: We are looking for a new Field Day Captain for this year's event, as Steve WU3I will not be assuming the job.

W3AA/W3YC: Steve WU3I reported the first QSL card came in for W3YC. Dick also asked about new W3AA QSL cards. Steve mentioned about making some up for now on the computer. A discussion was had on proper RF

grounding on the station. Al and Steve will look it into. At this time, Al W3STW made a motion to adjourn. Steve WU3I seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm.

73 de WA3KIO

Election Results

PMRC held it's annual election of officers at the December 10th meeting. The event, supervised by our able Judge of Elections W3BBb, was a bit more exciting than we've seen in recent years, the office of President being decided by *one single vote!*

If you've ever been tempted to believe that "my vote doesn't matter", this year should have been sufficient to convince you otherwise. The results were:

President:
W3STW

Vice President:
W3AOK

Secretary: NS3K

Treasurer:
W3RM

**Board of
Directors:**
W3BBB
N3MT
N3XKE



CORRECTION

In last month's Blurb there was a mistake in the Birthday Listing on 12/30 Adam's call is KB3JCP and his last name is spelled HUFFNAGLE. Sorry Adam!

DIRECTORY UPDATE

With this BLURB you received your 2004 Dues Invoice & Directory Information Sheet. Please verify the information and return it with your dues & optional PMRC SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATION to: DICK MOLL P.O. BOX 88 - ABINGTON, PA 19001-0088...Your early reply will save the club additional expenses and will speed-up the publishing of the 2004 P.M.R.C. Directory.

MEMBERSHIP STATS

Will resume in March

January Birthdays

- 03 Jon Verlin - KA3VVU
 - 05 Monica O'Donnell (XYL N3RCQ)
Dorene Weiner (XYL WX3PHI)
 - 07 Ray Heffernan - KB3JCR*
 - 11 Marlene Spangler (XYL W3DDS**)
 - 13 Jon Balch - W3KG
 - 15 Denise Burstein - KB3ANO
Karen Lenczynski (XYL KA3EIP)
 - 16 Bill Sullivan - N3QMH
 - 19 Bill Mescanti - K2LK
 - 25 Ronald Johnson - N3ZO
 - 30 Bill Kane - N3OOL
 - 31 Fred Reichert - KA3BET
- *New member 2003
**Membership pending

Proposed new members:

David S. Spangler - W3DSS (tech)
Nickname: Dave
613 Flamingo Street
Phila. PA 19128-3120
215.483.2634 dave.spangler@verizon.net
Occupation: Maintenance Tech
Spouse: Marlene

Family Membership:
Juergen A. Kaufmann - K3ZMJ (general)
Nickname: Al Occupation: Retired
Spouse: Peggy - KB3DID (general)
590 Acorn Street Phila. PA 19128-2504
215.482.9329

The minutes of the December PMRC regular meeting have been delayed. They will appear in the next issue of the Blurb.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

With this BLURB you received
your 2004 Dues Invoice &
Directory Information Sheet.
Please verify the information and
return it with your dues &
optional PMRC
SCHOLARSHIP FUND
DONATION to: DICK MOLL
P.O. BOX 88 – ABINGTON,
PA 19001–0088...Your early
reply will save the club
additional expenses and will
speed-up the publishing of the
2004 P.M.R.C. Directory.

Date	January 2004 with PMRC
Thu 01	New Year's Day
Fri 02	
Sat 03	
Sun 04	NCS: 2m K3XS – 75m W3YXZ
Mon 05	
Tue 06	
Wed 07	PMRC Board Meeting – WRDV
Thu 08	VE exams at Northeast HS --- see page 2
Fri 09	
Sat 10	
Sun 11	NCS: 2m WU3I – 75m WA3KIO
Mon 12	
Tue 13	
Wed 14	AUCTIONFEST 2004! at Masonic Village
Thu 15	
Fri 16	
Sat 17	Martin Luther King
Sun 18	NCS: 2m KB3IV – 75m KB3IV
Mon 19	
Tue 20	
Wed 21	
Thu 22	
Fri 23	
Sat 24	
Sun 25	NCS:WB3KOJ – 75m W3STW
Mon 26	
Tue 27	
Wed 28	
Thu 29	
Fri 30	
Sat 31	

First Class Mail

The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc
641 Kismet Road Philadelphia PA 19115

The Blurb